



2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

Thank You

FOR SUPPORTING



**HENDERSON COUNTY  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**\*\*Serving Henderson County Public Schools by investing in and responding to the whole child and the whole school.**

P.O. Box 1267 · Hendersonville, NC 28793 · Phone: 828.697.5551 ·

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## SAVE THE DATE

Join us as we Induct the 22nd class of the Henderson County Education Hall of Fame and honor our HCPS Teachers of the Year:

**2024 Education Celebration**  
**Tuesday, April 30th**  
**Jeter Mountain Farm**

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Enhancing Arts Education:

HCEF's Berrian Fund made a significant impact on the lives of over 500 middle and high school orchestra students. These young musicians benefited greatly as they engaged in regional and state competitions, received top-notch instruction, and prepared for college acceptance and scholarship auditions. Also, the community enjoyed two concerts highlighting these gifted students' exceptional talents.



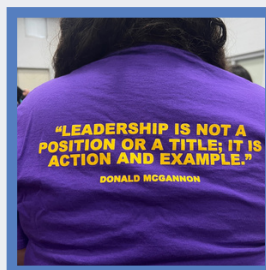
Not limited to music, HCEF extended its support to high school dramatic arts and visual arts teachers, providing them with essential resources to enhance their instructional programs. This support reached over 100 high school students, enriching their learning experiences and fostering their artistic growth.

### Empowering Leaders with The Leader in Me:

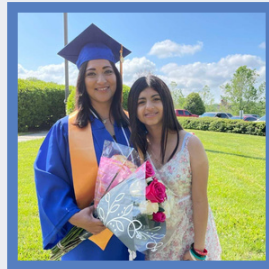
As we approach the 12th year of The Leader in Me implementation in HCPS, we proudly extend our reach to 13 out of 23 schools, positively influencing the lives of approximately 15,000 children. This incredible journey has been made possible by a total investment of around 1.3 million, generously supported through grants, state funds, community sponsorships, corporate backing, and contributions from individual donors. With an average investment of \$90 per student, the program has yielded remarkable benefits and outcomes which benefit our future Henderson County workforce:



- Improved Leadership Skills (responsibility, initiative, goal-setting, and problem-solving)
- Enhanced Academic Performance (self-discipline, organization, and time management skills)
- Increased Social-Emotional Well-Being (social skills, empathy, and emotional intelligence)
- Reduced Behavioral Issues (conflict resolution and communication skills)
- Increased Parent and Community Involvement (cohesion, collaboration, and collective efficacy)
- Cultivation of a Growth Mindset (perseverance, resilience, adaptability, and determination.)



The soft skills learned through The Leader in Me have long-lasting effects on students as they move into higher education and the workforce. We grow leaders who contribute to our thriving community!



## Equipping Students with STEM Skills and Aspirations:

During this summer, HCEF organized four week-long Discover STEM Camps for around 80 elementary and middle school students. The camps aimed to engage underrepresented groups in STEM, especially encouraging girls, students of color, and economically disadvantaged children.

Held at Innovative High School, the camps offered hands-on STEM learning guided by HCPS educators, college professors, and STEM experts. In the afternoons, students explored STEM careers by visiting local businesses or hearing from successful business leaders. The goal was to spark students' passion for STEM and pave the way for a more diverse and inclusive representation in these dynamic fields.

## Exploring our Backyards:

HCEF and HCPS maintain their partnership with Muddy Sneakers, dedicated to bringing the wonders of outdoor learning to 5th grade students. By including Dana and Edneyville, we expanded our reach to encompass 10 out of the 13 elementary schools, granting 750 fifth graders the opportunity to experience 6 outdoor learning adventures closely tied to state science standards, all within our community's natural surroundings. Anticipation builds as we prepare to incorporate the last 3 elementary schools into the program this school year. A warm welcome to Glenn C. Marlow, Etowah, and Upward!

## Growing our Own:

To support diversity in Henderson County Public Schools, the HCEF Board partnered with various organizations and donors to create the Grow Our Own Educational Assistance Fund. While open to everyone, this scholarship aims to attract students of color and current HCPS staff interested in education careers. So far, 8 scholarships have been awarded, offering up to \$3000 annually to 3 students and 5 HCPS employees.

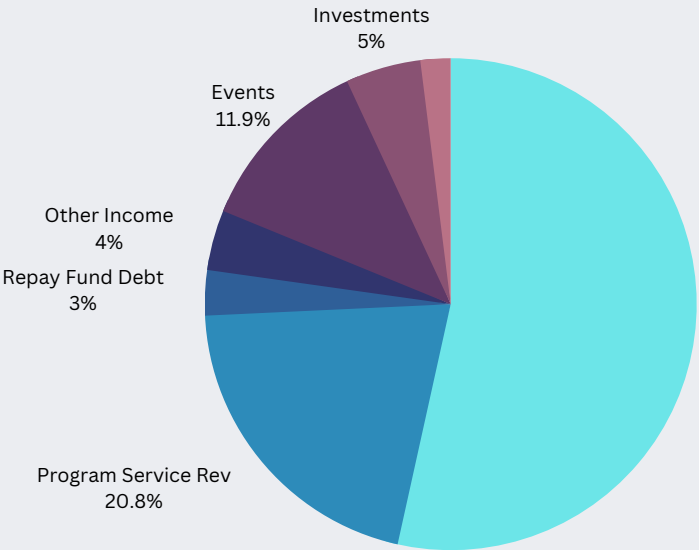
"As a first-generation college student, I'm so grateful to have the support of the Grow our Own scholarship. Their generous support has helped me achieve my educational goals. Balancing the demands of work, school and life was not an easy task, but the day of my graduation I was so happy and proud to tell my daughter: "If mom was able to graduate with honors, hija you can do it too!" (Evelyn Angeles Alarcon, HCPS ESL Family Liaison/ MEP Liaison for Sugarloaf Elementary, Blue Ridge Community College Graduate, future Appalachian State Mountaineer)

## Honoring Educators:

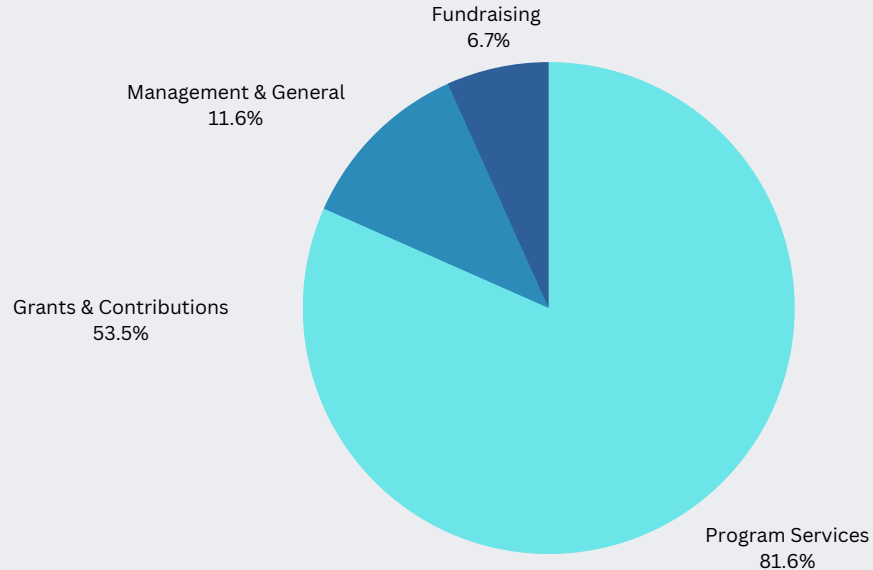
We had the honor of inducting four exceptional individuals into the 2023 Education Hall of Fame, adding to the esteemed roster of 148 distinguished honorees. These new members exemplify the highest standards of dedication, innovation, and impact on education in Henderson County. Their remarkable contributions further enrich the legacy of educational excellence celebrated by the Henderson County Education Foundation Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Patricia Allen, Brenda Walker Gorsuch, Ingrid McNair, and Dr. Kathy Revis.

# FINANCIALS

## Revenue & Support: \$572,341



## Expenses: \$558,431



Figures were based on our year end financials submitted to Carland & Andersen, INC.

For questions, email: [peggy@hcefnc.org](mailto:peggy@hcefnc.org)

## Providing Post-Secondary Scholarships:

In our commitment to supporting and empowering the future leaders of tomorrow, we are proud to announce that we have granted over 40 prestigious scholarships valued at an impressive total of \$125,000 to deserving high school students. These scholarships serve as a stepping stone to help them pursue their post-secondary education, enabling them to reach their full potential and achieve their dreams. We are honored to invest in the education and aspirations of these bright minds, knowing that they will make a significant impact on our society and the world at large.

## Supporting Our Most Vulnerable Students with the Spring Fund:

During the previous school year, all 23 schools' principals in Henderson County received \$1000 to cater to the immediate day-to-day needs of their most vulnerable students. Here are some examples of how the funds were utilized:

At Upward Elementary, Principal Michael Gates utilized the Spring Fund allocation to cover field trips for students who couldn't afford them, procure appropriate clothing for inclement weather, and offer alternative activities for students facing crises.

Hillandale Elementary also benefited from the Spring Fund as Principal Katie Bradley eliminated the school supply list, easing the burden on families who no longer had to purchase additional student supplies. The \$1,000 contribution significantly contributed to meeting the necessary resources, with approximately \$2,500 required yearly to cater to the students' needs.

Sharing an impactful incident, Matthew Haney, Principal at Fletcher Elementary School, mentioned, "We recently provided groceries to a family that urgently left an abusive home with no income at that time. All school administrators encounter such situations too often in our schools."